

REMARKS

- Claims 29 – 37, 39 – 59, 61, 66 – 88, 90, 91, and 94 are cancelled herein.
- Claims 95 – 124 have been added herein.
- Claims 95 – 124 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.
- Claims 95 and 115 will be the only independent claims pending upon entry of this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claim 87 and indication that claim 52 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 87 has been renumbered as claim 95, and claim 52 has been so rewritten as claim 115, including all of the elements of claim 50, the base claim from which claim 52 directly depended.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 66 – 81, 88, and 90 – 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Endo et al. (US 6,234,787). Claims 66 – 81, 88, and 90 – 91 have been cancelled herein, thereby mooting this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 29 – 36, 39 – 49, 82 – 85, and 94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endoh et al. (US 6,234,787) in view of Bartz et al. (US 5,510,093). Claims 29 – 36, 39 – 49, 82 – 85, and 94 have been cancelled herein, thereby mooting this rejection.

Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endoh et al. and Bartz et al., and further in view of Ping-Chung et al. (US 6,187,080). Claim 37 has been cancelled herein, thereby mooting this rejection.

Claims 50 – 51, 53 -59, 61, and 86 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Endoh et al. in view of Ping-Chung et al. (US 6,187,080). Claims 50 – 51, 53 -59, 61, and 86 have been cancelled herein, thereby mooted this rejection.

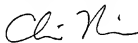
Conclusion

The Applicants, having cancelled all rejected claims and having submitted new claims which contain all of the elements of the allowed/allowable claims, believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

Applicants believe that a Request for Extension of Time is required, please accept this paragraph as a Request for Extension of Time and authorization to charge the Credit Card being submitted via EFS.

Please charge any new claim fees to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. If any other fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Hawthorne, New York